

**Remarks**

Claim 17 has been amended to incorporate the features of claims 18 and 19, now cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer of the encompassed subject matter.

Claims 1-8 and 13-16 are identified by the Examiner as allowed. For the following reasons, Applicants submit that claim 17 should be in a condition for allowance as well.

**1. Rejection under 35 U.S.C. 102(b)**

Claims 17-19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as anticipated by U.S. Patent 6,240,573 to Tsai ("Tsai") for the reasons provided on page 2 of the Office Action.

Applicants submit that as amended, claim 17 is novel and unobvious over Tsai. Referring to Figure 1 of Tsai, the outlet channel of claim 19 would be either the outlet hole 45, or the channel defined by the positioning ring 44. In either case, the first end of the outlet channel, as defined in claim 19, is **higher** than the second end of the outlet channel, as defined in claim 19. In contrast, claim 19 defines that the first end of the outlet channel is **lower** than the second end of the outlet channel. Therefore, Tsai cannot anticipate claim 19.

Furthermore, the second paragraph of page 7 of the present application describes the advantage of the configuration defined in claim 19 – namely to prevent the second liquid from entering the valve body. In Tsai, the second liquid must enter the valve body in order for the device to function. Therefore, Tsai actually teaches away from the arrangement recited in claim 19. Claim 17 has been amended to incorporate the features of claim 19 (and claim 18). Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that claim 17 as amended is novel and unobvious over Tsai and the asserted rejection should be withdrawn.

**2. Conclusion**

The foregoing amendments and remarks are being made to place the application in condition for allowance. Should an interview be helpful to further prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned.

Respectfully Submitted,  
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